

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original) A cross-linkable, expandable blank for an elastomeric safety support having a cellular structure comprising closed cells, said support being capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire, said blank comprising a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15% and water in an amount of from 3 to 6 phr.

Claim 8 (Original) A cross-linkable expandable blank for an elastomeric safety support having a cellular structure comprising closed cells, said support being capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire, said blank comprising a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15%, water in an amount of about 3 to 6 phr and a reinforcing filler comprising silica in an amount of from 10 to 30 phr and carbon black.

Claim 9. (Presently Amended) The cross-linkable blank according to Claim 7 or 8 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isobutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A cross-linked expanded elastomeric safety support capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire and having a cellular structure comprising closed cells obtained by a [the] process [of Claim 1 or 2] comprising kneading by thermomechanical working a rubber composition comprising a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15%, water in an amount of